

**Minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 10th February 2015 at 7:30pm, The Youth Centre, Old
Road, Handforth.**

Present: Cllr Clark
Cllr Fox
Cllr Harrison
Cllr Thompson
Cllr Tolver

Also present Mr Brooks, Parish Clerk and twenty one members of the public.

15/04/1 To receive apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Cllrs
Chapman and Scott.

15/04/2 To note declarations of Members' Interests.

Cllr Harrison declared a personal interest in item 15/04/6 in that he was Chairman of the Handforth Community War Memorial Fund one of the payees in the order of payments.

Cllr Tolver declared a personal interest in item 14/04/7, the St Benedict's Primary School grant application.

15/04/3 Open Forum- A resident asked about the content of the Chairman's Report. Cllr Tolver responded that he would answer queries from members of the public about this item when he delivered the report.

15/04/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the HPC meeting of the 13th January 2015.
Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Fox that the minutes of the 13th January be approved as a true record.

Motion carried: three for and two abstentions.

15/04/5 To receive a report from the Clerk.

The Clerk's report was noted.

15/04/6 To approve accounts for payment.

Cllr Thompson proposed,
seconded by Cllr Tolver that the accounts for payment of £4397.58 be approved.

Motion carried: four for and one abstention.

15/04/7 To consider a grant application for £1000 from St Benedict's Primary School.

Cllr Tolver left the meeting at this point and Cllr Thompson assumed the role of Chairman. Councillors raised a number of queries was this equipment a replacement for existing equipment or a totally new asset. Cllr Thompson asked that some accounts from St Benedict's PS support the application. It was also noted what appeared to be an arithmetic error on the grant application.

Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark that this item be deferred until the Clerk could contact the school to obtain answers to the queries raised by councillors.

Resolved: unanimously.

Cllr Tolver re-joined the meeting.

15/04/8 To receive a report from Cllr Tolver the Chairman of Handforth PC.

Chairman's Report 10th Feb 2014

Investments in Handforth

The Chairman of HPC (Brian Tolver) reported that a substantial amount of money - £365,000 – had been deposited by the developer McCarthy and Stone in respect of the development on Wilmslow Road, Handforth, close to Clay Lane.

(When a substantial development takes place, it is sometimes the case that the developer is required to pay over a sizeable sum of money – this is called Section 106 money – towards infrastructure in the area.)

This money was deposited almost 4 years ago, for “affordable housing”. This was to be used somewhere in the Handforth/Wilmslow/Alderley area. Handforth councillors obviously considered this should, morally, most certainly be used for social housing in Handforth, but there was a very real prospect it would 'leak out' of our borders.

HPC is delighted to say it has now been confirmed this WILL be used in Handforth, for “social” housing. Better still, it is extremely likely this will be used in conjunction with a housing association, which means the cash can be supplemented by grants, and also that if at all possible they will use some of their own land to increase the amount built. Details have yet to be worked out, but this could quite possibly result in 8, 10, maybe a dozen 'social' rented houses in Handforth over the next couple of years or so .

Residents may have seen that Ward Councillors Barry Burkhill and Dennis Mahon announced some of this in their recent newsletter, and we owe them a real debt of gratitude for working on this doggedly over the last few years. There was a very real possibility this cash would 'leak' out to the wider area – to the whole of the old Macclesfield BC area – but now, it will come here to reduce our waiting list.

Furthermore, it has been confirmed that Equity housing association are going to refit Cypress House as affordable housing too – plans still to be seen, but there will be perhaps a further 20 or so dwellings, and again a consequent reduction in the waiting lists in the next year or two.

Taken together with the £million-pounds plus being spent on the two Handforth primary schools, that represents a total investment equivalent to over £1,000 for every household in Handforth.

Car Parking

Cllr Tolver explained that there is a second amount of Section 106 money – over £128,000 – that has been lying unused for an astonishing *eighteen* years. It was designated to provide car parking at The Paddock, Handforth. Clearly there is no way of increasing car parking there, and because it was a legal agreement, there seemed no way forward. However, HPC has been able to agree with Cheshire East that this log-jam needed a break-through, and we found one. The money will now be made available for car parking anywhere suitable in Handforth over the coming years.

(As an indication, this amount is considerably more than HPC's entire income for a year.)

The Chairman’s report was noted.

15/04/9 To confirm that the next meeting of Handforth Parish Council will take place on the 10th March 2015.

It was agreed that the next meeting of Handforth PC would be held on 10th March 2015, 7:30 pm at Handforth Youth Centre.

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....